



Esposito And Philippoussis Engaged

Actress JENNIFER ESPOSITO has found a love match with Australian tennis ace MARK PHILIPPOUSSIS – the pair is engaged.

The sports star's publicist has confirmed the happy news, stating the former model proposed this summer.

Philippoussis, who starred in U.S. dating show *The Age of Love*, previously dated singer Delta Goodrem and was romantically linked to Paris Hilton. He was once engaged to actress and model Alexis Barbara.

Crash star Esposito was briefly married to actor Bradley Cooper.

This time, it looks like he could make it to the altar. The couple are looking to wed in May or June. We are waiting for the Poo to bring his bride-to-be home to Melbourne to meet his family.

Early help gives kids like Christa hope

Ten years ago children with a profound hearing impairment, like Christa Dracopoulos, would have attended a special school and relied on sign language.

This week, however, the five-year-old from Sydney's south will be joining a mainstream school and speaking just as well as the other children.

Her mother, Tricia, said her daughter, who speaks Greek and English, was talking just as well as the average five-year-old.

"From the moment we found out that she was hearing-impaired, our aim was to get help for her to go to a mainstream school," Mrs Dracopoulos said.

"Christa is extremely excited and looking forward to it. Most people can't tell she is hearing-impaired."

A new study, the first of its kind, from the Shepherd Centre in Sydney has found that since the State Government introduced screening of newborns in late 2002, early intervention has helped children reach the same level of communication and language skills as those without hearing problems.

Aleisha Davis, acting director of clinical programs at the Shepherd Centre, said this was partly a result of early diagnosis through the newborn screening program and improvements in the de-



Normal life ... Christa Dracopoulos, 5, is one of the success stories from Sydney's Shepherd Centre and starts mainstream school this week.
Photo: Jacky Ghossein

velopment of hearing aids and cochlear implants.

"It is directly related to early intervention and the auditory-verbal therapy we use. It is about teaching the children how to listen and speak so they can sound like normal hearing children," she said.

A study of 41 children graduating from the Shepherd Centre found most had language and vocabulary skills within the normal range of children of a similar age - a result unheard of 10 years ago.

"About 84 per cent of the general population is in the normal range and we are finding from our results that 79

per cent of children achieve normal vocabulary scores and 71 per cent have achieved normal language scores," Ms Davis said.

"The average age of children with hearing problems joining the Shepherd Centre program is now eight weeks, whereas a decade ago the average age was over two years."

Ms Davis said that fitting children early with the latest hearing devices allowed them to participate in auditory-verbal therapy from a very early age.

"Early diagnosis, early fitting and early intervention are the keys to success," she said.

Article from The Sydney Morning Herald

AUSTRALIA'S FIRST STATE: NUMBER ONE FOR AUSTRALIA DAY CELEBRATIONS

No matter whether you're in the back of Bourke or in the centre of the City there is something for everyone everywhere this Australia Day.

Minister for Tourism, Jodi McKay, today encouraged everyone to get out and enjoy the Australia Day celebrations right around NSW on Tuesday.

"NSW is Australia's number one State for events and there are so many different and exciting activities happening in

Sydney and throughout the State on Australia Day," Ms McKay said. "In Sydney our beautiful Harbour will be bustling with excitement with the Australia Day Tall Ships Race, the Ferrython, an amazing flyover by the C130's and plenty more.

"There are also a number of exciting things happening in Hyde Park including the Herefords Great Aussie BBQ, entertainment on the Hyde Park Main

Stage and the kid's playground.

"And of course Australia Day wouldn't be the same in Sydney without the 9pm fireworks at Darling Harbour."

Ms McKay said Sydney wouldn't be the only place partying on Tuesday with plenty happening all around the State.

"Down in the Illawarra there will be a host of Novelty Events, Competitive Sports, Family Fun Days, Food & BBQ's, Music & Entertainment and Fire-

works," Ms McKay said.

"Out West, Bathurst, Tullamore and Orange will all have official ceremonies, fun days, food and music and Parkes will hold their 2010 Carnival Cup Harness Race.

"Up North in Tweed Heads, Port Macquarie and Taree there will be citizenship ceremonies, music, family fun days and plenty more."

Ms McKay said she would be spending Australia Day in her home town of Newcastle and enjoying as much as she could fit into the day.

"In Newcastle there will be roving street performers, food and market stalls and the annual State Series Junior Triathlon from East Esplanade to Newcastle Baths. "No matter where you are on Tuesday one thing is for sure, you'll be able to find an Australia Day party to celebrate our wonderful country," Ms McKay said. "NSW knows how to party and Tuesday is another great opportunity to show Australia and the rest of the world what they're missing out on. "History shows that when it comes to having a good time, NSW and Sydney do it best. Just look at the Olympics, World Youth Day, the World Masters Games and of course New Years Eve.

CONSUMERS MAKE EVERY DAY AUSTRALIA DAY

The Australian Made logo has had its most successful year in its 24 year history with a record 46% increase in the number of businesses signing up to use the logo. And it's all thanks to Australian consumers, who have made it very clear that they want to buy Australian and look for the famous logo to do so.

"Every day, consumers around Australia make conscious decisions to buy products made here in Australia. They do so, because they understand that buying Australian means quality products made by Australian workers to high standards in the local environment – investing back into their own community. The growth we have experienced is thanks to these consumers who make every day Australia Day by supporting local businesses," says Ian Harrison, Chief Executive of the Australian Made, Australian Grown Campaign. The much loved green and gold symbol can be found on

more than 10,000 products sold here and around the world. "The growth over the past year has been nothing less than extraordinary. In a year where some of Australia's iconic businesses have cut jobs and moved production overseas, we've seen a resurgence growth in the sign-up of local businesses looking to promote that their products are Australian. It is perhaps not surprising. Consumers are clearly looking for Aussie products, so it makes sense for Australian growers, processors and manufacturers to promote their goods as such, and the simplest and most effective way to do that is to use the Australian Made logo," says Ian Harrison. The green and gold logo is the most trusted and recognised symbol for products that are truly Australian. Research conducted by Roy Morgan Research in July 2009 shows that 94% of consumers recognise the symbol while 85% trust it over any other Australian country of origin identifier.